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Op-Ed: America Recycles Day (Nov. 15)

By
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This Tuesday, November 15th marks the ninth annual celebration of America Recycles Day, a nationwide awareness event that encourages people to recycle and buy recycled products.

We are truly blessed to call the Great Lakes State of Michigan our home. Together we must work to preserve the many natural resources it boasts. Recycling helps protect our resources, environment and quality of life.

Whether starting the first recycling center in Livonia, or helping to establish one of the first ecology commissions in Michigan back in the early 1970s, the passion I developed for our environment as a young woman stays with me today.

While lawmakers continue to address issues such as the importation of foreign waste and out-of-state trash and invasive species invading our Great Lakes, every single Michigan resident must do his or her part to help protect our state's environment.

Michigan unfortunately has one of the worst recycling rates in the nation. This November, and throughout the year, I urge my fellow residents to do their part to reduce, reuse and recycle.

There is more to recycling than putting your newspaper, glass, plastics and metals out on the curb each week or dropping them off at the local recycling center. Look for recycled content in the products you buy. Recycled items are high-quality, proven products that perform as well as their non-recycled counterparts. By using recycled materials, the manufacturers of recycled products create less pollution and use less energy.

I encourage everyone to learn more by logging onto www.americarecyclesday.org or by contacting my office at (517) 373-1707 to obtain a free copy of A Citizen's Guide to Michigan's Natural Resources and Environment.

This is our earth, our country and our Michigan. Let's do all we can to protect it for generations to come.